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18 Abstract of the Disclosure

19 An array of relief cuts is formed at the flexion points of an expandable stent. The relief
20 cuts are small enough to preserve the columnar compressive strength of the stent. The relief
21 cuts allow a balloon expandable stent to be expanded with less balloon pressure. The relief
22 cuts allow the use of wider and thinner material in the stent, giving greater radio-opacity and
23 vessel coverage while simultaneously reducing the stent profile and increasing laminar blood
24 flow through the stented vessel. Patterns of relief cuts may be placed in stents to achieve
25 controlled, non-uniform expansion and which, in some instances, allow the stent to bend
26 easily in a given direction to facilitate deployment in curved arteries or other body lumens.